

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original): A document processing method for processing a document, comprising:

a document creation step of creating said document; and

a document editing step of editing said document on the basis of editing information specific to said document,

wherein said document creation step includes an original creation step that creates an original of said document, and

an embedding step that embeds said editing information in said document, and

wherein said document editing step includes an extraction step that extracts the editing information embedded in said document, and a modifying step that modifies said document from the original state on the basis of said editing information.

Claim 2 (original): The document processing method according to claim 1, wherein said embedding step is a step in which encoded data obtained by encoding said editing information is embedded in said document by means of electronic watermark.

Claim 3 (original): The document processing method according to claim 1, wherein said embedding step is a step in which encoded data obtained by encoding said editing information is embedded in said document by means of bar code.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The document processing method according to ~~any of claims 1 through 3~~ claim 1, wherein said editing information includes decorative

information that is required in order to decorate a specified region in said document, and said modifying step includes a decorating step that decorates the specified region in said document on the basis of said decorative information.

Claim 5 (original): The document processing method according to claim 4, wherein said decorative information includes information which indicates whether or not decoration is to be performed.

Claim 6 (original): The document processing method according to claim 5, wherein said decorative information includes coordinate information indicating said specified region.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The document processing method according to ~~any of claims 4 through 6~~ claim 4, wherein said decorating step decorates the specified region of said document with a designated color.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The document processing method according to ~~any of claims 4 through 6~~ claim 4, wherein said decorating step decorates the specified region by half-tone dot meshing.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The document processing method according to ~~any of claims 4 through 6~~ claim 4, wherein said decorating step decorates the specified region by overwriting the specified region with an overwriting pattern.

Claim 10 (original): The document processing method according to claim 9 further comprising a registration step of registering said overwriting pattern beforehand.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The document processing method according to ~~any of claims 1 through 3~~ claim 1, wherein said editing information includes replacement information that is required in order to replace the specified region of said documents with the replacement pattern, and said modifying step replaces the specified region of said document with said replacement pattern on the basis of said replacement information.

Claim 12 (original): The document processing method according to claim 11, wherein said replacement information includes coordinate information that indicates said specified region.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The document processing method according to claim 11 ~~or claim 12~~, wherein said replacement information includes said replacement pattern.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The document processing method according to claim 11 ~~or claim 12~~, wherein said replacement information includes information that designates said replacement pattern.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The document processing method according to ~~any of claims 11 through 14~~ claim 11, further comprising means for registering said replacement pattern beforehand.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The document processing method according to ~~any of claims 1 through 3~~ claim 1, wherein said editing information includes retouched-part information required in order to detect a retouched part added to said document, and said modifying step erases said retouched part added to said document on the basis of said retouched-part information.

Claim 17 (original): The document processing method according to claim 16, wherein said retouched-part information includes a compressed image or reduced image of said document.

Claim 18 (original): The document processing method according to claim 16, wherein said retouched-part information includes coordinate data indicating a blank region of said document.

Claim 19 (original): The document processing method according to claim 16, wherein said retouched-part information includes a number of signals embedded in said document.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The document processing method according to ~~any of claims 16 through 19~~ claim 16, wherein said modifying step erases the retouched part added to said document by painting out said retouched part with a specified color.

Claim 21 (original): The document processing method according to claim 20, wherein said modifying step erases the retouched part added to said document by painting out said retouched part with the specified color except for a straight line existing within said retouched part.

Claim 22 (original): The document processing method according to claim 17, wherein said modifying step erases the retouched part added to said document by restoring an image of said document using said retouched-part information.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The document processing method according to ~~any of claims 1 through 3~~ claim 1, further comprising a step of removing said editing information from said document following said modifying step.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The document processing method according to ~~any of claims 1 through 3~~ claim 1, further comprising a re-embedding step of updating said editing information so as to reflect a result of the editing performed by said modifying step, and then embedding the updated editing information in said document following said modifying step.

Claim 25 (original): A document processing system which processes a document, comprising:

document creation means for creating said document; and

document editing means for editing said document on the basis of editing information specific to said document,

wherein said document creation means includes original creation means for creating the original of said document, and embedding means for embedding said editing information in said document, and

wherein said document editing means includes extraction means for extracting the editing information embedded in said document, and modifying means for modifying said document from said original state on the basis of said editing information.

Claim 26 (original): The document processing system according to claim 25, wherein said embedding means embeds encoded data, which is obtained by encoding said editing information, in said document using an electronic watermark.

Claim 27 (original): The document processing system according to claim 25, wherein said embedding means embeds encoded data, which is obtained by encoding said editing information, in said document using a bar code.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The document processing system according to ~~any of claims 25 through 27~~ claim 25, wherein said system includes any one of an electronic copying machine, a scanner device and a facsimile device.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The document processing system according to ~~any of claims 25 through 28~~ claim 25, further comprising a server device which holds either an overwriting pattern or replacement pattern used by said document editing means, or both, and which supplies the overwriting or replacement pattern to said document editing means via a network.

Claim 30 (original): The document processing system according to claim 29, wherein said server device includes means for registering either said overwriting pattern or replacement pattern, or both.

Claim 31 (original): A document creation method for creating a document that is to be edited on the basis of editing information, comprising:

an original creation step of creating an original of said document; and
an embedding step of embedding said editing information in said document.

Claim 32 (original): The document creation method according to claim 31, wherein said embedding step embeds encoded data, which is obtained by encoding said editing information, in said document using an electronic watermark.

Claim 33 (original): The document creation method according to claim 31, wherein said embedding step embeds encoded data, which is obtained by encoding said editing information, in said document using a bar code.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The document creation method according to ~~any of claims 31 through 33~~ claim 31, wherein said editing information includes decorative information that is required in order to decorate a specified region of said document.

Claim 35 (original): The document creation method according to claim 34, wherein said decorative information includes information that indicates whether or not decoration is to be performed.

Claim 36 (original): The document creation method according to claim 35, wherein said decorative information includes coordinate information indicting said specified region.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The document creation method according to ~~any of claims 31 through 33~~ claim 31, wherein said editing information includes replacement information that is required in order to replace the specified region of said document with a replacement pattern.

Claim 38 (original): The document creation method according to claim 37, wherein said replacement information includes coordinate information that indicates said specified region.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The document creation method according to claim ~~37 or 38~~, wherein said replacement information includes said replacement pattern.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The document creation method according to claim ~~37 or 38~~, wherein said replacement information includes information that designates said replacement pattern.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The document creation method according to ~~any of claims 37 through 39~~ claim 37, wherein said editing information includes retouched-part information that is required in order to detect a retouched part added to said document.

Claim 42 (original): The document creation method according to claim 41, wherein said retouched-part information includes a compressed image or reduced image for said document.

Claim 43 (original): The document creation method according to claim 41, wherein said retouched-part information includes coordinate data indicating a blank region in said document.

Claim 44 (original): The document creation method according to claim 41, wherein said retouched-part information includes a number of signals embedded in said document.

Claim 45 (original): A document creation device for creating a document that is to be edited on the basis of editing information, comprising:

original creation means for creating an original of said document; and
embedding means for embedding said editing information in said document.

Claim 46 (original): The document creation device according to claim 45, wherein said embedding means embeds encoded data, which is obtained by encoding said editing information, in said document using an electronic watermark.

Claim 47 (original): The document creation device according to claim 45, wherein said embedding means embeds encoded data, which is obtained by encoding said editing information, in said document using a bar code.

Claim 48 (original): The document creation device according to claim 45, wherein said device includes a personal computer.

Claim 49 (original): A document editing method for editing a document on the basis of editing information embedded by an embedding step, comprising:

an extraction step of extracting the editing information embedded in said document;
and

a modifying step of modifying said document from the original state on the basis of said editing information.

Claim 50 (original): The document editing method according to claim 49, wherein said embedding step embeds encoded data, which is obtained by encoding said editing information, in said document using an electronic watermark.

Claim 51 (original): The document editing method according to claim 49, wherein said embedding step embeds encoded data, which is obtained by encoding said editing information, in said document using a bar code.

Claim 52 (currently amended): The document editing method according to ~~any of claims 49 through 51~~ claim 49, wherein said editing information includes decorative

information that is necessary in order to decorate a specified region in said document, and said modifying step includes a decorating step that decorates the specified region in said document on the basis of said decorative information.

Claim 53 (original): The document editing method according to claim 52, wherein said decorative information includes information that designates whether or not decoration is to be performed.

Claim 54 (original): The document editing method according to claim 53, wherein said decorative information includes coordinate information that indicates said specified region.

Claim 55 (currently amended): The document editing method according to ~~any of claims 52 through 54~~ claim 52, wherein said decorating step decorates a specified region of said document by painting said region with a designated color.

Claim 56 (currently amended): The document editing method according to ~~any of claims 52 through 54~~ claim 52, wherein said decorating step decorates the specified region by half-tone dot meshing.

Claim 57 (currently amended): The document editing method according to ~~any of claims 52 through 54~~ claim 52, wherein said decorating step decorates the specified region by overwriting the specified region with an overwriting pattern.

Claim 58 (original): The document editing method according to claim 57, further comprising a registration step which registers said overwriting pattern beforehand.

Claim 59 (currently amended): The document editing method according to ~~any of claims 49 through 51~~ claim 49, wherein said editing information includes replacement information that is necessary in order to replace the specified region of said document with the replacement pattern, and said modifying step replaces the specified region of said document with said replacement pattern on the basis of said replacement information.

Claim 60 (original): The document editing method according to claim 59, wherein said replacement information includes coordinate information indicating said specified region.

Claim 61 (currently amended): The document editing method according to claim 59 ~~or 60~~, wherein replacement information includes said replacement pattern.

Claim 62 (currently amended): The document editing method according to claim 59 ~~or 60~~, wherein replacement information includes information that designates said replacement pattern.

Claim 63 (currently amended): The document editing method according to ~~any of claims 59 through 62~~ claim 59, further comprising means for registering said replacement pattern beforehand.

Claim 64 (currently amended): The document editing method according to ~~any of claims 49 through 54~~ claim 49, wherein said editing information includes retouched-part information that is necessary in order to detect a retouched part added to said document, and said modifying step erases the retouched part added to said document on the basis of said retouched-part information.

Claim 65 (original): The document editing method according to claim 64, wherein said retouched-part information includes a compressed image or reduced image of said document.

Claim 66 (original): The document editing method according to claim 64, wherein said retouched-part information includes coordinate data that indicates a blank region in said document.

Claim 67 (original): The document editing method according to claim 64, wherein said retouched-part information includes a number of signals embedded in said document.

Claim 68 (currently amended): The document editing method according to ~~any of claims 64 through 67~~ claim 64, wherein said modifying step erases the retouched part added to said document by painting out said retouched part with a specified color.

Claim 69 (original): The document editing method according to claim 68, wherein said modifying step erases the retouched part added to the said document by painting out

said retouched part with the specified color except for a straight line located inside said retouched part.

Claim 70 (original): The document editing method according to claim 65, wherein said modifying step erases the retouched part added to said document by restoring the image of said document using said retouched-part information.

Claim 71 (currently amended): The document editing method according to ~~any of claims 49 through 51~~ claim 49, further comprising a step of erasing said editing information from said document following said modifying step.

Claim 72 (currently amended): The document editing method according to ~~any of claims 49 through 54~~ claim 49, further comprising a re-embedding step of updating said editing information so as to reflect a result of the editing performed by said modifying step, and then embedding the updated editing information in said document following said modifying step.

Claim 73 (original): A document editing device for editing a document on the basis of editing information embedded by embedding means, comprising:

extraction means for extracting the editing information embedded in said document;
and

modifying means for modifying said document from the original state on the basis of said editing information.

Claim 74 (original): The document editing device according to claim 73, wherein said embedding means embeds encoded data, which is obtained by encoding said editing information, in said document using an electronic watermark.

Claim 75 (original): The document editing device according to claim 73, wherein said embedding means embeds encoded data, which is obtained by encoding said editing information, in said document using a bar code.

Claim 76 (original): The document editing device according to claim 73, wherein said device includes any one of an electronic copying machine, a scanner device and a facsimile device.

Claim 77 (original): A document of which original is to be edited on the basis of editing information, wherein the original is converted into the document of paper or electronic form, and said editing information is embedded in the document by embedding means.

Claim 78 (original): The document according to claim 77, wherein said embedding means embeds encoded data, which is obtained by encoding said editing information, in said document using an electronic watermark.

Claim 79 (original): The document according to claim 77, wherein said embedding means embeds encoded data, which is obtained by encoding said editing information, in said document using a bar code.

Claim 80 (currently amended): The document according to ~~any of claims 77 through 79~~ claim 77, wherein said editing information includes at least one of decorative information that is necessary in order to decorate a specified region in said document, replacement information that is necessary in order to replace the specified region of said document with a replacement pattern, and retouched-part information that is necessary in order to detect the retouched part added to said document.